



## 2006 Fiscal Report

### Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D)

**NRCS provides technical and financial assistance to help agricultural producers and others care for the land. NRCS has six mission goals that include high quality, productive soils; clean and abundant water; healthy plant and animal communities; clean air; an adequate energy supply; and working farms and ranchlands.**

#### Vision

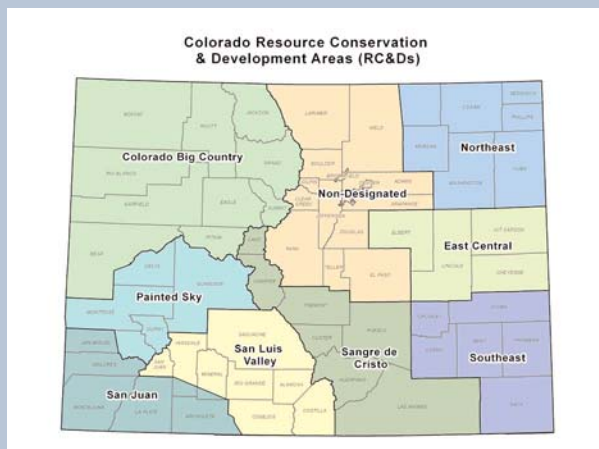
Productive Lands -  
Healthy Environment

#### Mission

Helping People Help the Land

*"Through the RC&D program, people will have unique opportunities to take the lead in making their communities better places to live. Projects they choose to undertake will offer vital boosts to the health of their natural resources, economies, and standards of living."*

**City Council Member**



The USDA's Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) program helps people in rural areas plan and carry out activities that increase conservation of natural resources, support economic development, and enhance the environment and standard of living in local communities.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service can provide grants for land conservation, water management, community development, and environmental needs in authorized RC&D areas.

Colorado currently has eight RC&D councils that serve 55 of Colorado's 65 counties. For more information about RC&D in Colorado, visit [www.coloradoleaguegcd.org](http://www.coloradoleaguegcd.org).

#### Project Activities

***Sangre de Cristo RC&D Council services seven counties.*** Its goals include wise management of water resources, healthy and productive natural resources, coordinated planning, a diversified economy, and preservation of western heritage. Current projects include:

- ◆ Geographic Information System (GIS) Initiative
- ◆ Upper Arkansas Regional Weed Management Cooperative
- ◆ Upper Arkansas Watershed Council
- ◆ Arkansas River Basin Water Forum
- ◆ Biofuel Briquette Feasibility Study

***San Luis Valley RC&D Council*** services six counties. The council's motto is "Where Ideas Can Become Reality." Customers' voices are heard and their ideas developed so that they can actively pursue common sense solutions to community problems. Current projects include:

- ◆ San Luis Cooperative Noxious Weed Program
- ◆ Biomass Project
- ◆ Solar Photovoltaic on Center Pivot Irrigation Corners
- ◆ Development of Biodiesel
- ◆ Sustainable Economic Environmental Development Park

***Southeast Colorado RC&D Council*** services six counties. Projects improve the agricultural and rural economy in southeast Colorado to create a more diversified economy through tourism and recreation, and preserve important historical elements in southeast Colorado. Current projects include:

- ◆ Field-Scale Assessment & Improvement of Irrigation Practices
- ◆ Tamarisk Removal Project
- ◆ Wind Energy Development Project
- ◆ Wiley Community Trails & Bikeway

***San Juan RC&D Council*** services eight counties in Southwest Colorado. Its goal is to accelerate conservation, development and use of our natural resources to improve the level of economic activity, and to enhance the environmental standard of living in the San Juan Basin. Current projects include:

- ◆ San Juan Biodiesel Coop, 3mg/y Biodiesel Plant in Dove Creek
- ◆ GPS Irrigation Canal Mapping for Water Management
- ◆ Vallecito Reservoir ADA Trail and Group Picnic Area
- ◆ Vallecito Lake Volunteer Monitoring Group
- ◆ Dolores River Tamarisk Work Group

***East Central Colorado RC&D Council*** services five counties and covers 6.2 million acres of Colorado's eastern plains. It provides a continuing program to encourage enrichments of the rural lifestyle for the communities and citizens of the East central Colorado RC&D region. Current projects include:

- ◆ Kit Carson–La Junta Rail Road Trail Ride
- ◆ Genoa-Hugo School Ball Fields
- ◆ Flagler Alternative Fuels/Energy
- ◆ Elbert Composting
- ◆ Flagler Community Development

***Colorado Big Country RC&D Council*** services ten counties covering more than 17 million acres. Based on community input, the Council is targeting its efforts on sustainable communities, water, and habitat.

Current projects include:

- ◆ Biomass Utilization Projects
- ◆ BLM/County Weed Control Partnership
- ◆ College Scholarship Program
- ◆ Colorado Weed Calendar
- ◆ Invasive Species Education Projects
- ◆ Solid waste handling assistance for small communities
- ◆ Value-added Agriculture

***Northeast Colorado RC&D Council*** is the newest RC&D in Colorado. It services seven counties totaling 4.5 million acres. The council's mission is to "Promote Sustainability in Northeast Colorado."

Current projects include:

- ◆ Water Quality Planning on the North Fork of the Republican River
- ◆ Alternative Enterprise and Heritage Tourism Conference
- ◆ ShopRuralAmerica.com website development
- ◆ Develop bio-diesel production on a community scale
- ◆ Facilitate the process of developing a weed control district in the Lower South Platte Watershed

***Painted Sky RC&D Council*** services six counties totaling 6.1 million acres in west-central Colorado. It promotes economic and natural resource enhancements and improvements within its communities. Current projects include:

- ◆ Fire planning in wildland urban interface
- ◆ Tamarisk Eradication
- ◆ Fee-for-Service Program Serving Communities
- ◆ Cactus Park Water Storage Project
- ◆ Selenium water quality/endangered fish